PRESERVING: ■ FAMILY FARMS ■ SOIL ■ SCENIC VIEWS

■ RIVERS & STREAMS ■ CULTURAL SITES ■ SCENIC BYWAYS

■ GROUND WATER ■ RURAL CHARACTER

arke County, Virginis

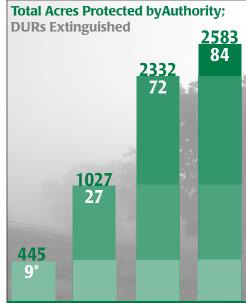
Clarke County Easement

Land in Easement Accepted by the Authority Increased 11% in 2008

251 Acres Protected; 12 DURs Extinguished

The Authority accepted permanent easements on seven properties in 2008, adding 251 acres of permanently protected open space to the county and extinguishing 12 Dwelling Unit Rights (DURs).

In six short years, the Authority has accepted 2,583 acres for permanent protection. This has extinguished 84 DURs in the county including 13 building lots on the outskirts of Boyce. The 2008 properties — together with those held by state agencies such as The Virginia Outdoors Foundation — bring total protected *Plus 13 building lots in Boyce open space in Clarke County to more than 22,000 acres.



2008

ABO

Five of the seven properties were donated by the landowners in exchange for tax benefits. Donor contributions helped pay legal fees and closing costs on these properties.

Donors Help Save the Day!

Record Support Helps Soften Impact of Economic Downturn

hanks to the above-and-beyond

support of loyal donors last year, the Easement Authority raised almost as much to fund its work in 2008 as it

did in 2007. There was a 70% increase in gifts from current donors with numerous contributors giving more

2007 205 **Total gifts** 162 Current donor gifts 100 173 First time 62 32 donor gifts

than once and many giving more DID YOU KNOW?

Easement Authority in qualifying for matching grant funds, which can result in a three-fold return on every dollar

than twice. This stepped-up support, when added to donations from first-time givers, enabled the Authority to end the year with a 30% increase in gifts received, despite a dramatic drop in first-time

Donor support will be needed even more in 2009 to:

- Ensure the Authority has sufficient funds available to take advantage of matching fund opportunities— such as the \$49,900 state farmland preservation grant it will receive this year. [Ed. note: See related story below.]
- Make up for a likely shortfall in funding from the county, which is wrestling with budget woes of its own caused by a decline in revenue.

County Receives \$49,900 State Grant for Farm Preservation

larke County is one of 11 localities to receive funding for farmland

preservation as part of a \$500,000 package announced by Governor Kaine.

The \$49,900 grant will be used by the Easement Authority to either purchase an easement and/or pay costs associated with accepting an easement on a donated property.

This is the second grant Clarke County has received from the Virginia's Office of Farmland Preservation for this purpose. Previous grant money was used to purchase easements on

two working farms totaling 75 acres. Two DURs were extinguished.

"Even with our budgetary restraints, we will continue to support PDR [Purchase of Development Rights] programs in every way we can.'

Governor Tim Kaine



Q. Would my property qualify for permanent conservation easement?

A. Yes, if the property is in an Agricultural-**Open-Space Conservation or Forestal-Open** Space Conservation District and meets three of the following four criteria:

- At least 40 Acres
- At least one DUR extinguished
- Unique historic or scenic resource
- Adjacent to public or private land held in easement

DID YOU KNOW? Open Space **Fosters Tourism That** Contributes to Clarke's Economic Health

According to the Virginia Department of Transportation, there are currently over 2,500 miles of Scenic Byways in Virginia. It is important to protect these special road corridors because they contain areas of inherent historical, cultural, recreational & natural significance that also attract

visitors, helping stimulate local economies.

■ Visitors spent \$15 million dollars -- and contributed 177 jobs to the local economywhile visiting Clarke County in 2007. This represents a 42% increase in tourism in just five years.

■ According to findings reported in a 2008 draft economic study commissioned by the Clarke County Board of Supervisors, small-scale tourism can add to the county's economy in three ways: increase to the sales tax base; support of commercial real property values; increase in local incomes.

THANK YOU, Donors -Current and New-For Your Generous Support in 2008!

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